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April 21st, 1914

Mr. M. M. Nelson,

91 Cobourg Road,

Halifax.

Dear Sir:

I shall endeavour to send you a short article for the "Dalhousie Gazette" some time after the Little of May setting forth the value as it appears to me of such a building as the students of Dalhousie are endeavouring to secure.

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 29th, 1914

Mr. W. M. Nelson,

91 Cobourg Road,

Halifax.

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I am enclosing you a short article for the "Dalhousian" as requested.

Yours sincerely,

President.

I am glad to know that the students of Dalhousie have undertaken to erect a building which is to be devoted to the varied interests and activities of the undergraduates. In a modern university such a building is of the greatest advantage to the life of the university. As it has always been so the university is to-day a society of students and teachers. In the class-rooms and the laboratories the teachers meet the students and by their direct teaching, example, and personal encouragement quicken the intellectual powers, by instruction or by giving stimulus to personal investigation. This is of course primary, though probably in some of our universities, especially those moulded on the Scottish type, this side of student life has been pursued too exclusively. Many of us who had our training in the Universities of Scotland look back with regret to the comparatively small part that the community life had in our undergraduate days. There were no residences or colleges and the union was only beginning to enter upon its career which has since then in Edinburgh at least been so successful

But much of the breadth of the student's education is determined by his intercourse with his contemporaries: he learns toleration, his prejudices are softened, his sharp edges filed down by rubbing against others in sport , debate, and in personal intercourse and familiar give and take.

Therefore a building such as you propose is a great asset to the university. It is well also to have all your activities housed together - athletic, social, religious. I have no doubt that you will find it to be a unifying influence among the men of the various years and different faculties, and that around such a building will cling many of the happiest memories of old Dalhousians.

It may be of interest to you to know that in the University of Toronto there is at present under construction a similar building to contain Students' Union, gymnasium, Y.M.C.A., Dining Hall and theatre, to be constructed and equipped on a splendid scale through the generosity of the Executors of the Massey Estate; and we anticipate that its erection will do an immense deal for the unifying of our students, and the production of a finer common life. If you can get some benefactor to do the same for you his money will be well spent.